
6.0 IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

The irreversible commitment of resources is the use of non-renewable resources such as fossil fuels, manufactured structural materials, cultural resources, and land converted to long-term industrial uses. The generating plant site and facilities (about 47 acres) and the energy required to build and operate the plant, and industrial water that is evaporated in cooling towers represent irreversible commitments of resources.

Irretrievable commitments of resources cause the lost production or use of renewable resources such as timber, rangeland, or wildlife habitat. For this project, irretrievable commitments of resources include crop losses because of facility construction, and surface disturbance that may require several to many years to recover to former wildlife habitat values. Because of the problems associated with weed invasion, some disturbed sites may represent irreversible commitments of resources because they *would* never recover to their former vegetation cover and composition. |